

SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
THIRD QUARTER REPORT-FY 2003
For the period April 1, 2003 - June 30, 2003

SUBMITTED BY: Norman Bartoo, Acting Director, Fisheries Resources Division

Title of Accomplishment or Milestone: Assemble sets of incidental samples for sardines for comparison to historical and contemporary data.

Current Status: Port sampling is conducted by the various state fish and game agencies. Summaries of those samples and associated information are being collected from those agencies. Other sources of sardine samples such as research cruises targeting other species are being investigated.

Background Information: Historical data exists for the periods during the height of the sardine fishery in the 40's and 50's, as well as during its collapse in the late 50's to early 60's. Contemporary data is being collected on research cruises directed at studying the sardine population since its resurgence off the U.S. west coast beginning in the early 80's. Supplemental data is available from state fisheries agencies sampling commercial catches as well as from research cruises directed at other fisheries.

Purpose of Activity: Port sampling of sardines provides data on that portion of the population that is being exploited by commercial fisheries. Other samples collected on research cruises targeting species other than sardine can be used to supplement these port samples, since these samples may occur outside the region/time period of the commercial fishery. Comparison of historical and contemporary data to data from commercial fisheries and other sources will enhance our understanding of the life history and exploitation of the sardine resource.

Description of Accomplishment and Significant Results: Various state agencies in California, Oregon and Washington have been contacted concerning their port sampling efforts and data is being summarized and collected. A search is presently underway to identify other research cruises that may sample either adult sardine or sardine eggs.

Significance of Accomplishment: These samples will expand our database for sardine in both time and areal extent. In addition, commercial samples can be compared from samples obtained outside the commercial fishery region to see if differences exist in the commercially exploited fish and the overall population.

Problems: None.

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